

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 048619

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, YO

SUBJECT: AFN INTERFERENCE WITH RADIO SARAJEVO

REF: STATE 044633

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF DEPARTMENT, USIA AND DOD MET MARCH 7 TO DISCUSS PLAN FOR POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF OFFENDING STATION(S). IT WAS AGREED THAT DOD AND USIA WOULD ARRANGE FOR USIS TECHNICAL MONITOR RESIDENT IN BELGRADE TO MONITOR THE THREE AFN STATIONS. DETAILS OF KEYING TRANSMITTERS TO MONITORING EFFORT WILL BE WORKED OUT BY DOD AND USIA. PARTICIPANTS ALSO FORMULATED THREE QUESTIONS BEARING ON PROBLEM OF AFN INTERFERENCE (SEE PARA 2) TO BE ASKED OF GOY.

2. IN MEETING WITH YUGOSLAV FIRST SECRETARY VIDOVIC MARCH 8 COUNTRY OFFICER FOR YUGOSLAVIA OBSERVED THAT USG IS NOW ENGAGED IN ACTIVE EFFORT TO IDENTIFY AND, IF POSSIBLE, REDUCE AFN INTERFERENCE WITH RADIO SARAJEVO. GOY COULD ASSIST USG IN THIS EFFORT IF APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES COULD PROVIDE FOLLOWING TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

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PAGE 02 STATE 048619

(A) WHAT IS THE COVERAGE AREA OF RADIO SARAJEVO WHICH REQUIRES PROTECTION? DOES THE COVERAGE AREA ENCOMPASS ALL OF BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA? ALL OF YUGOSLOVIA?

(B) AT WHAT LOCATIONS AND TIMES HAS INTERFERENCE FROM AFN RADIO STATIONS BEEN EXPERIENCED?

(C) CAN THE APPROPRIATE YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES IDENTIFY POSITIVELY WHICH OF THE THREE AFN STATIONS IS CAUSING THE INTERFERENCE?

COUNTRY OFFICER SUBMITTED ABOVE QUESTIONS TO VIDOVIC IN WRITTEN FORM IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRANSLATION AND TRANSMISSION TO BELGRADE.

3. VIDOVIC INDICATED HE WOULD CABLE QUESTIONS TO FSFA.

4. BEGIN FYI. ALTHOUGH US HAS NOT RPT NOT LODGED COMPLAINT, WE HAVE NOTICED THAT DURING PAST YEAR YUGOSLAV STATION IN SABAC IS INTERFERING WITH LONG-ESTABLISHED VOA STATION IN GREECE OPERATING ON 791 KHZ. AND GROUP OF LOW-POWERED YUGOSLAV STATIONS ON 1198 KHZ. IS INTERFERING WITH LONG-ESTABLISHED VOA STATION IN GERMANY. WHILE NOT EQUATING THESE CASES WITH AFN, WE MAY, IF SOLUTION FOUND TO AFN INTERFERENCE, WISH TO RAISE ISSUE OF INTERFERENCE ON THESE FREQUENCIES IN SAME COOPERATIVE SPIRIT. END FYI.

5. SEPTTEL ON RIAS FOLLOWS.

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